



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA RELEASE

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS MARYLAND'S COMPLETION OF CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BALTIMORE – Highlighting work Maryland has done in its child welfare program, the federal Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families has commended the Maryland Department of Human Resources for successfully completing its Child and Family Services Review.

The department was praised for improvements to the state's fundamental child welfare system in the areas of family-centered practice, kinship care, independent living, quality assurance, recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families and court standards and practices. "Changes made in these areas, made as part of the Program Improvement Plan, will continue to advance the State's system of programs and services to children and families in Maryland," said officials at the Administration for Children and Families.

"Place Matters in Maryland," said Brenda Donald, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources. "We have been working diligently to ensure that the children in our care are in the best possible placements and receive the type of up-front attention that has led to improved service delivery and better outcomes for children."

Maryland has been submitting quarterly Program Improvement Plan reports, as well as data generated for the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System. In addition to information reporting, the state also completed all action steps and tasks leading to systematic change and met established goals for improvement on national standards.

The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also administers programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

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